

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07564 01 OF 02 031149Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031155Z 108109 /41
O 031140Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7912

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07564

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GW US OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

REFS: (A) LONDON 7164; (B) BONN 7462 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. GROWING PRESS SPECULATION HAS FORCED
THE FRG TO MAKE A PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FACT
THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL
TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER. THE FRG NOW PROPOSES THAT THE
SIMULTANEOUS WASHINGTON AND BONN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
OFFICIAL VISIT BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL
RECEIVE A PROPOSED TEXT AND SUGGESTIONS ON TIMING
FROM THE FRG LATER TODAY. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING ANNOUNCED
ON MAY 2, WITHOUT NAMING A SPECIFIC DATE, THAT
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WOULD PROBABLY VISIT WASHINGTON
IN JULY.

2. GROWING PRESS CLAIMS OF DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON, SOME OF THEM A REFLECTION
OF REPORTING FROM OTHER CAPITALS SUCH AS THE
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ECONOMIST ARTICLE REPORTED IN REF (A), HAD STIMULATED
SPECULATION THAT THE CHANCELLOR MIGHT MAKE AN URGENT
TRIP TO WASHINGTON BEFORE THE LONDON SUMMIT. AT THE
MAY 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, BOELLING CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL
TO DENY SUCH SPECULATION AND TO ADD THAT SCHMIDT'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN JULY.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE BOELLING STATEMENT:

"IT WAS AGREED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON IN THE SUMMER, AND IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE SOME WEEKS AGO THIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GENTLEMEN WAS RENEWED. I PROCEED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT -- ALTHOUGH I CANNOT GIVE YOU A DATE AS YET -- THIS TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE IN JULY, PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH A VISIT BY THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR TO CANADA. THERE HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING INVITATION FROM PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, AND THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT FOR SOME TIME."

4. GENERAL ANZEIGER ON MAY 3 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, EMIL BOELTE, STATING THAT "WESTERN STATESMEN" IN WASHINGTON ARE SPEAKING OF GROWING DIFFICULTIES IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IT IS SAID, ACCORDING TO BOELTE, NOT ONLY THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SCHMIDT WILL TALK ON THE MARGINS OF THE LONDON SUMMIT BUT THAT SCHMIDT WILL GO TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031156Z 108119 /41
O 031140Z MAY 77
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07564

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5. ACCORDING TO BOELTE, THE CHANCELLOR HAD HINTED AT SUCH A VISIT AS EARLY AS JANUARY, BUT GROWING DISAGREEMENTS WERE GIVEN BY THE AMERICAN SIDE AS THE

REASON FOR THE FACT THAT SO FAR ONLY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAD GONE TO WASHINGTON. SINCE THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN AGREED EARLIER, IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT THE "SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS" COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTERWARDS.

6. BECAUSE OF THIS SPATE OF SPECULATIVE PUBLICITY, THE FRG NOW CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON VISIT. RUHFUS IN THE CHANCELLERY TELLS US, THAT, AS SOON AS THEY HAVE RESOLVED ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CANADIANS (WHO ORIGINALLY PREFERRED THAT THE CANADIAN VISIT NOT BE LINKED TO THE WASHINGTON VISIT) THEY WILL SUGGEST A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN BONN AND WASHINGTON SOME TIME THIS WEEK. THE TEXT WHICH THEY PROPOSE WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CANADIAN VISIT, AND IT WILL THUS PROBABLY NOT BE IDENTICAL IN CONTENT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT.

7. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FRG ON CONTENT AND TIMING LATER TODAY.

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